

Pacific Crest Trail – Carson Pass

10k Seasonal Hike Rated 2C Y0880

Start Point & Directions: Carson Pass at Highway 88

From the junction of US 50 and SR 89, go South (Right if you are headed for Lake Tahoe) on SR 89 for 11 miles to SR 88. Turn Right (West) and drive 10 miles to the summit of Carson Pass. From Stockton, take SR 88 East to the summit of Carson Pass.

Notes: There is no free parking. Use the lot at Carson Pass or the Meiss Trailhead for \$5.00. The only restrooms are at the edges of the two parking lots. The route is a lopsided figure 8 entirely on the Pacific Crest Trail. The trail is easily followed and well-traveled by day hikers as well as PCT folks. Hiking boots, walking sticks, and hats are recommended. Use sunscreen and carry water. The Meiss Trailhead portion has long parts with no cover, while the Frog Lake loop offers more shade.

Special Programs: Animal Safari (Frog Lake), Food for Thought (Frog Lake), Points of Reference (Carson Pass), Treasure Hunt (California is the Golden State), You Never Walk Alone (Kit Carson and/or 1880's German immigrant, Louis Meiss, who homesteaded the area).

1. Cross the Meiss Trailhead parking lot to the kiosk and the beginning of the trail.
2. After a short distance of dirt trail, there is a pile of boulders. The easiest passage is along the left edge. Continue onto the trail.
3. With the mountain on your right, the narrow, well-defined trail runs along the edge of a canyon. The views are sweeping and dramatic.
4. When the trail moves inland, there are wildflowers –especially if you are hiking in early August. The trail alternately goes uphill and flattens out.
5. After a fairly long uphill, the trail curves to the right. There is a meadow, then a pond on the left.
6. Ahead is a row of lodgepole pines, divided by the trail. (about 3k)
7. Beyond the row of trees is a lone tree on the right with the trail's crest beyond. The crest is the turnaround.
8. Retrace the trail back to the Meiss Trailhead parking lot. (7k).
9. Cross the parking lot diagonally (by the restrooms) and cross the highway to the Carson Pass memorial. The trail runs between the memorial and restrooms on the right and the Visitor Center on the left.
10. Follow the winding dirt trail past boulders and sandy stretches to Frog Lake. The lake will appear on your left.
11. Frog Lake is the turnaround—return to the parking lot and your car. (10k) sg7/16

In case of EMERGENCY, dial 911
Event related assistance: **Suzi Glass**
(408) 592-3935 glass2walk@gmail.com

These walk directions and map may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Carson Pass 10km

